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TAGS: UNSC PREL PHUM AG MO WI XA XF XI
SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR FEBRUARY 4 UNSC CONSULTATIONS
ON THE WESTERN SAHARA

Classified By: IO PDAS James B. Warlick, Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Action Request. USUN is instructed to draw from the talking points in paragraph two below and to introduce the draft press statement in paragraph three below during the February 4 UNSC consultations on the Western Sahara. USUN should seek to keep the UNSC consultations and UNSC press statement non-controversial to avoid prejudicing van Walsum's travel to the region in February and the next round of talks in mid-March. End Action

¶2. (U) Begin talking points:

-- We thank the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Western Sahara Peter van Walsum for his briefing on the status of negotiations between the Frente Polisario and Morocco on the future of the Western Sahara.

-- The United States is encouraged that both sides engaged each other more during the last round of talks than in previous rounds, agreed to reconvene in Manhasset on March 11-13 for a fourth round of talks, and agreed to move the next phase of negotiations into a more intensive and substantive dialogue.

-- We encourage both parties to negotiate in good faith and come to the next round of talks with a constructive and flexible attitude.

-- We support the Special Envoy's intentions to travel to the region for in-depth consultations with the parties in preparation for the next round of talks.

end points

¶3. (U) Begin draft press statement:

The members of the Security Council welcome the report of the Secretary General of 28 January 2008 (S/2008/45) on the

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status and progress of the negotiations on Western Sahara.

The members of the Security Council are pleased that the parties and States of the region agreed to meet on 11-13 March in Manhasset, NY in accordance with resolutions 1783 (2007).

The members of the Security Council support the intention of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary General for Western Sahara to travel to the region for in-depth consultations in preparation for the next round of talks.

The members of the Security Council welcome that the parties reiterated their commitment to show political will and negotiate in good faith and agreed on the need to move the process into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations under United Nations auspices.

The members of the Security Council reaffirm their support for the efforts of the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy to implement resolutions 1783 and 1754 (2007).

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